

Chowan County Court House
Edenton, Chowan County
North Carolina

HABS No. NC-12-63

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N.C.

21- EDET

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of North Carolina

Historic American Buildings Survey
Prepared at Headquarters Office for
M. R. Marsh, District Officer
509 Builders Building, Charlotte, N.C.

HABS
NC
21-EDPT
2-COURT HOUSE
Edenton, Chowan County, North CarolinaOwner: Chowan CountyDate of erection: 1767Present condition: GoodArchitect: Attributed to Gilbert LeighDescription:

Brick, Flemish bond; two stories; hipped roof; high cupola. Front has a pavilion in the center extending full height of building, crowned by a pediment. It is three bays wide, with single windows flanking it. Lower sash 9/9 lights, upper 9/6 lights. The entrance door centers on the pavilion and has a Doric tabernacled frame original with the building, though the doors are modern. The main cornice has a full Classic profile with modillions. The cupola rises in octagonal form above a high square base, in each face of which is a clock, except in the rear, which is capped by an open pediment supported on brackets. The arched openings in the belfry above are filled with louvers. The cupola roof is ogival.

The building is T-shaped, the center part terminating in a semicircular apse. This part is in one room with the judge's chair on a dais in the apse. The chair is built into the paneled dado that runs under the windows in the apse and is contemporary with it. The balustrade across the dais, and the stair rail are composed of old balusters and rails but have been rebuilt. All the rest of the woodwork of the room is nineteenth-century, including four columns which have been introduced to support the second floor. The stair ascends in a hall to the west of the entrance and is original, but not elaborate, with turned balusters and moulded handrail. The great room over the courtroom is said to be the largest of American paneled rooms. It is high and paneled to the ceiling on all walls. It has two facing fireplaces on either long wall with doors to the south to the hall and Masonic Room and a single window to the north, as well as two in the apse. There is a full entablature at the ceiling line.

Additional data:

The architect is said to have been Gilbert Leigh, formerly of Williamsburg, and the architectural character of the building would indicate this, showing definite relationship to the Capitol in Williamsburg.

Author: TLWApproved: 9/11/55